

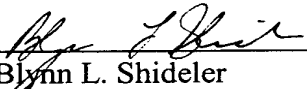
REMARKS

The above amendments to the specification and claims are believed to place the claims in conformance with United States patent practice and correct the informalities. Note that original claims 1 and 2 are now claims 11 and 12, as added under Article 34 on September 13, 2000. Claims 11-22 remain in the application and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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MARKED-UP VERSIONS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the fourth paragraph on page 3 lines 16-19, as amended under Article 34 on September 13, 2000, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

For accomplishing the above object, according to the present invention, to construct a [liquid] fluid processing apparatus for producing hydrogen-containing gas, having a plurality of processing spaces, the apparatus comprises:

a plurality of containers juxtaposed in a direction to each other and forming the processing space respectively therein[.];

pressing means for pressing the containers as juxtaposed from opposed sides thereof in the juxtaposing direction of the containers;

wherein each said container includes a pair of container-forming members disposed in the juxtaposing direction and having peripheral portions thereof joined and welded to each other; and

at least one of the pair of container-forming members is in the form of a dish-like member having a peripheral portion used as a joining margin and a bulging central portion.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the section on page 33 entitled "Abstract of the Disclosure" and replace it with the following replacement section.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A [liquid] fluid processing apparatus having a plurality of processing spaces (S) includes a plurality of containers (B) juxtaposed in a direction to each other forming processing spaces (S) respectively therein. Pressing means (H) is provided for pressing the containers (B) as juxtaposed from opposed sides thereof in the juxtaposing direction of the containers. Each

container (B) includes a pair of container-forming members (41a) disposed in the juxtaposing direction and having peripheral portions thereof joined and welded to each other. At least one of the pair of container-forming members (41a) is in the form of a dish-like member having a peripheral portion used as a joining margin and a bulging central portion.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 11 and 12, as added in the Preliminary Amendment dated June 15, 2001, as follows:

11. (Once Amended) A [liquid] fluid apparatus for producing hydrogen-containing gas, the apparatus having a plurality of processing spaces, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of containers juxtaposed in a direction to each other and respectively forming the processing space therein[.];

pressing means for pressing the containers as juxtaposed from opposed sides thereof in the juxtaposing direction of the containers;

wherein each said container includes a pair of container-forming members disposed in the juxtaposing direction and having peripheral portions thereof joined and welded to each other; and

at least one of the pair of container-forming members is in the form of a dish-like member having a peripheral portion used as a joining margin and a bulging central portion.

12. (Once Amended) A [liquid] fluid processing apparatus for producing hydrogen-containing gas, the apparatus having a plurality of processing spaces, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of containers juxtaposed in a direction to each other and respectively forming the processing space respectively therein[.];

pressing means for pressing the containers as juxtaposed from opposed sides thereof in the juxtaposing direction of the containers;

wherein each said container includes a pair of container-forming members disposed in the juxtaposing direction and having peripheral portions thereof joined and welded to each other; and

at least one of the pair of container-forming members is in the form of a dish-like member formed by press-forming a plate material and having a peripheral portion used as a joining margin and a bulging central portion.